AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A trocar assembly comprising:

a trocar having a distal end, a proximal end, and a trocar lumen from said proximal end to said distal end; and

a trocar cap for removable attachment to said proximal end of said trocar body, said cap having a cap lumen,

wherein said trocar and said trocar cap each include a magnetic member, at least one of said magnetic members comprising a first magnet, and the other of said magnetic members comprising a second magnet or a non-magnetized magnetically permeable member, said magnetic members being positioned on said cap and said trocar for magnetically securing said cap to said proximal end of said trocar with said cap lumen in alignment with said trocar lumen.

2. (Original) A trocar assembly as in claim 1, wherein both said magnetic members comprise permanent magnets, the magnetic fields thereof being oriented to attract a predetermined side of said cap to said base.

3. (Original) A trocar assembly as in claim 1, wherein:

said trocar includes an elongated, generally annular cannula for extending through a tissue boundary, said cannula having a distal end for placement on one side of the tissue boundary and a proximal end for placement on another side of the tissue boundary, and a trocar base disposed at said proximal end of said cannula, said trocar lumen extending from a proximal end of said base axially through said cannula to said distal end thereof;

said magnetic member in said base is a non-magnetized magnetically permeable material disposed at said proximal end of said base; and

said trocar cap includes a cap lumen and said magnetic member is a magnet for cooperating with said magnetic member on said base for magnetically securing said cap to said base with said trocar lumen and said cap lumen in alignment.

4. (Original) A trocar assembly as in claim 3, wherein said magnetic member comprises an annular disc disposed at said proximal end of said base surrounding said trocar lumen.

5. (Previously presented) A trocar assembly as in claim 4, wherein said magnet creates a magnetic field generally axially aligned with said cap lumen and having a predetermined strength for holding a distal end of an elongated surgical instrument in place in alignment with said cap lumen.

6. (Original) A trocar assembly as in claim 5, wherein said cap lumen forms a funnel-shaped opening at a proximal end of said cap.

7. (Original) A trocar assembly as in claim 4, wherein said magnet comprises one of an annular disc surrounding said cap lumen and a plurality of individual elements secured to said cap and arranged circumferentially around said cap lumen.

8. (Currently amended) A trocar assembly as in claim [[5 or]] 7, wherein said cap lumen forms a funnel-shaped opening at a proximal end of said cap.

9. (Original) A trocar assembly as in claim 3, wherein said trocar cap and said trocar base include cooperating camming members for generating a force tending to separate said cap and said base upon movement of said cap transversely to said base.

10. (Original) A trocar assembly as in claim 3, wherein:

said magnet in said trocar cap comprises an annular disc secured to said cap surrounding said cap lumen, and said trocar cap further includes an annular cap camming ring surrounding said annular disc and having a first sloped face; and

said magnetic member in said trocar base comprises an annular disc secured to said proximal end of said base surrounding said trocar lumen, and said trocar base further includes an annular trocar camming ring surrounding said annular disc and having a second sloped face for cooperating with said first sloped face for generating a force tending to separate said cap and said base upon movement of said cap transversely to said base.

11. (Original) A trocar assembly as in claim 10, wherein said camming rings are compliant to form a circumferential seal between said contacting sloped faces when said cap is magnetically secured to said base.

12. (Original) A trocar assembly as in claim 1, further comprising at least one of a cap valve member including a compliant toroidal body disposed in said cap and a trocar valve member including a compliant toroidal body disposed in said trocar base, wherein said toroidal body has a central opening and is disposed for compression axially when said cap is magnetically secured to said base thereby closing said central opening when a surgical instrument is not present in said lumen.

13. (Original) A trocar assembly as in claim 12, further comprising said cap valve member and said trocar valve member, wherein said toroidal bodies are in contact to mutually compress each other axially when said cap is magnetically secured to said base.

14. (Previously presented) A trocar comprising;

an elongated cannula for extending through a tissue boundary, said cannula having a distal end for placement on one side of the tissue boundary and a proximal end for placement on another side of the tissue boundary and a trocar base disposed at said proximal end of said cannula, with a trocar lumen extending axially of said base from a proximal end thereof to said distal end of said cannula; and

a magnet in said base for creating a magnetic field generally axially aligned with said lumen and having a predetermined strength for holding a distal end of an elongated surgical instrument in place in alignment with said lumen.

15. (Original) A trocar as in claim 14, wherein said magnet comprises an annular disc disposed at said proximal end of said base surrounding said lumen.

16. (Original) A trocar in claim 15, wherein said lumen forms a funnel-shaped opening at said proximal end of said base.

17. (Original) A trocar as in claim 14, wherein said magnet comprises a plurality of individual elements disposed at said proximal end of said base and arranged circumferentially around said lumen.

18. (Original) A trocar in claim 17, wherein said lumen forms a funnel-shaped opening at said proximal end of said base.

19. to 35. (Canceled)